(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 1 फरवरी, 1996 के दैनिक ट्रिब्यून में 'इरेटिक पावर सप्लाई' प्लेग्स काटेज यूनिट्स" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या 'हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद' के चेयरमैन ने उद्योग के विस्तार और विकास के मार्ग की बड़ी बाधाओं का कारण परिवहन सुविधा, बंदरगाह सुविधा, संचार व्यवस्था का अभाव और कच्चे माल की अनुपलब्धता को बताया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(घ) सरकार द्वारा देश में इन सुविधाओं को उपलब्ध करवाने के लिह क्या समयबद्ध लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है?

श्रम मंत्री और वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी): (क) से (घ) जी हां। सरकार इन सभी समस्याओं से भलीभांति अवगत है तथा देश में ये सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए सभी संभव प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं। फिर भी, सरकार द्वारा कोई समयबद्ध लक्ष्य तय नहीं किया गया है।

Hydro-Electric projects in Orissa

1214. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have abandoned Sindol, Hirakud B and Chiplima B hydro electric projects in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Detailed Project Reports for the Sindol, Hirakud 'B' and Chiplima 'B' projects have been prepared by Government of Orissa. Notification under Section-29 (2) of the Electricity Act, 1948 has been published by the State Government. The Water and Power Consultancy Services Limited (WAPCOS) have been entrusted with the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Study Report including rehabilitation and resettlement of the villagers affected due to construction of the above mentioned projects.

Taxation reforms

1215. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether taxation reforms made by Government during the last four years have been successful;

(b) if so, to what extent and in what manner;

(c) whether any more taxation reforms are still pending; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Revenue receipts both in direct and indirect taxes have been much higher, as a result of the tax reforms.

(c) and (d) Tax reforms is an ongoing process and efforts are made continuously to bring reforms in tax-structure.

Underhand dealings of Farm houses

1216. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farm houses lying on the southern fringe of the Capital symbolise the underhand dealings of the country's rich and famous as has been brought out in the Express magazine of 28th January, 1996;

(b) if so, the names of owners of the farm houses indicating the area thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into these underhand dealings; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The information brought out in the Express Magazine of 28.1.96 is of a

general nature and no firm conclusions can be drawn. However, in a few cases, enquiries have been conducted and enquiry reports sent to the Assessing Officer for further action as per provisions of law.

(c) As and when specific information is received, appropriate action as per law is taken.

(d) Does not arise.

Sanction for Pooyamkutty project in Kerala

1217. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state whether Government would reconsider its attitude towards Kerala in the light of the acute scarcity of electricity it is facing at present and grant sanction to the Pooyamkutty project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): The Pooyamkutty hydroelectric Power Project in Kerala (2×120 MW) was accorded techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority in 1984 at an estimated cost of Rs. 250 crores. The project was accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission in August, 1986 subject to the State Government's obtaining the forest clearance, Environmental clearance to the Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Power Project in Kerala was accorded by the government of India in June, 1985. however, the proposal for the forest clearance was rejected in January, 1991. The State Government has represented to Ministry of Environment & forests for a re-examination of the earlier decision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Power Policy for north-Eastern region

1218. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVIND RAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any power policy for the North-Eastern Region as a whole; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The Report on Perspective of National Power Development upto 2006-07 prepared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) provides an important input for formulation of power policy. As per this report, the Peak Demand and Energy Requirement of North Eastern Region is anticipated to be 3231 MW and 15319 MUs respectively. Considering the high hydro potential the total installed generating capacity requirement is assessed at 4480 MW by the end of the above period. The report also suggests Demand Management Strategy and several supply side options including Energy Conservation to augment capacity requirement in the region.

World Bank's scheme for State Electricity Boards

1219. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has approved a scheme to finance State Electricity Boards to overcome power crisis, if so, the names of States to be benefited from the scheme and to what extent;

(b) the criteria used to identify the beneficiary States;

(c) whether implementation of World Bank Scheme will warrant restructuring of State Electricity Boards, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether State Governments have been approached to ascertain their views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The poor physical and financial performance of SEBs has necessitated their restructuring. World Bank has